1. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a speech recognition system (1), the method comprising:

detecting a speech signal (S_I) of a user;

analyzing the speech signal to recognize speech information contained in the speech signal (S_I);

determining a reception quality value (S_Q) or a noise value which represents a current reception quality; and

switching the speech recognition system over to a mode of operation, which is less sensitive to noise when the noise value exceeds a noise threshold, or outputting an alert signal (S_W) to the user when the reception quality value (S_Q) drops below a given reception quality threshold, or both.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: automatically resetting the speech recognition system to a previous mode of operation when the reception quality value (S_Q) exceeds the reception quality threshold or when the noise value drops below the noise threshold.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising deactivating a barge-in mode of operation of the speech recognition system when the reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or the noise value exceeds the noise threshold.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in one of the claims 1, wherein the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value is determined with a voice activity detector.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in one of the claims 1, wherein the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value is determined on the basis of a background signal which is received prior to a beginning of an utterance, or in a speech pause of the user, or both.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the voice activity detector applies the reception quality value (S_Q) or the noise value or, when the reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or when the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, a reception corruption indication signal (S_{EB}) to a dialog control device .

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in one of the claims [[1]]6, further comprising: when the reception corruption indication signal (S_{EB}) is received, or when the received reception quality value (S_Q) drops below the reception quality threshold or the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, the dialog control device initiates an output of a prompt (S_W) indicating that the reception conditions are poor.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in one of the claims 1, further comprising:
      analyzing an incoming signal for a type of disturbance causing the reception quality value (S_Q) to be below the reception quality threshold or the noise value to be above the noise threshold, and outputting a prompt (S_W) to the user.

9. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition system, comprising:
      means for detecting a speech signal (S_I) of a user;

a speech recognition device adapted to analyze the detected speech signal (S_I) to recognize speech information contained in the speech signal;

a quality control device adapted to determine a reception quality value (S_Q) or a noise value, representing a current reception quality,

a comparator adapted to compare the reception quality value (S_Q) with a predetermined reception quality threshold or for comparing the noise value with a given noise threshold,

and control means adapted to switch the speech recognition system over to a mode of operation which is less sensitive to noise, or an alert signal (S_W) is output to the user when the reception quality value drops below the reception quality threshold or when the noise value exceeds the noise threshold, or both.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a computer program executable on a computer readable medium for carrying out all of the method.

11. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the means for detecting a speech signal comprises a voice activity detector.

12. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the control means further comprises a barge-in switching unit.

13. (Previously Presented) A speech recognition system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the control means further comprises a dialog control device.